



Phelps Community
Historical Society

November/ December 2022 Volume 30 Issue 268



Happy Holidays !



**Best wishes for a happy,
healthy holiday season**

*from the President, Board of Trustees,
staff and volunteers
at the Howe House Museum*



The sleigh has just passed the corner of Exchange Street.
The Howe House is coming up on the left.
Postcard circa 1910.

Dashing Through the Snow!

The following was written on February 12, 2000 by Muriel Bennett Goodman, daughter of Elsie Mitchell Bennett, granddaughter of Adele Lay Mitchell and great granddaughter of the mentioned Jerome Franklin Lay who owned the buffalo robe.

Jerome, born on February 7, 1830, was the son of Samuel Lay (1780-1857) and Mary (Polly) Fredenberger (1788-1851). He resided in Tyre, NY and was a farmer on Black Brook Road.

I recall that old buffalo robe being in the attic of Mother's house as a child. My sister Eleanor remembers using it in the car to keep warm, but she did not know that it belonged to our great grandfather. I remember using it to keep warm when we went on sleigh rides in the 1930s. The Skinner's had an old bobsled and they would fill it up with straw, hitch up horses, and drive around the neighborhood picking up anyone who wished to join in the fun. One of the neighbors usually would have some treats for the group. We would have cinnamon toast and hot cocoa at one house. On another outing, we might have peach kuchen, another time maybe popcorn. The old buffalo robe accompanied us on all those trips, saving us from frozen fingers and toes.

When that activity became obsolete, the old robe remained in Mother's attic. Somehow, it came into the possession of the Gerald Goodman family, and spent some time in our attic. When Mike and Bill's room became empty, I spread it on the floor there. Eventually it was folded up and stored in our garage.

How Jerome came into possession of the robe remains a mystery. Who had J.F. Lay stenciled on the back of the robe is also a mystery, as are so many things in our pasts.

Note: The buffalo robe in the story, along with a soapstone foot warmer, has been donated to the Phelps Community Historical Society by Muriel Goodman's daughter, Jackie Darrow, who had it in storage. It will be used for display with the sleigh in our transportation exhibit.

Howe House Museum

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
(315) 548-4940

E-mail:

histsoc2@gmail.com

Website:

phelpsnynyhistory.com

Find us on

Facebook

Museum Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday
10am-4pm
or by appointment

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Anna Lightfoote

From our mailbox... the note below
was received from a PCHS member with
their donation to our 2022 Annual Appeal

I am a former life time resident of Geneva
but had many friends and loved it in
Phelps! Still see familiar names of
descendants so very nice for me at 95 years
of age. Went to Sauerkraut Festivals for
many years with my family! I miss the
Phelps Hotel for "Chicken on the
Rough" (Ask around!!) *Violet Easton*



In Memoriam

Donald C. Jones
Canandaigua, NY
April 17, 1928—November 6, 2022

Hanging Up the Christmas Stockings

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when
all thro' the house*

*Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse;*

*The stockings were hung by the
chimney with care,*

*In hopes that St. Nicholas soon
would be there.*

We've all heard the famous poem by Clement Clarke Moore, "A Visit from St. Nicholas". This poem was first published in December 23, 1823 and helped shape the projections of Santa Claus that society has today.

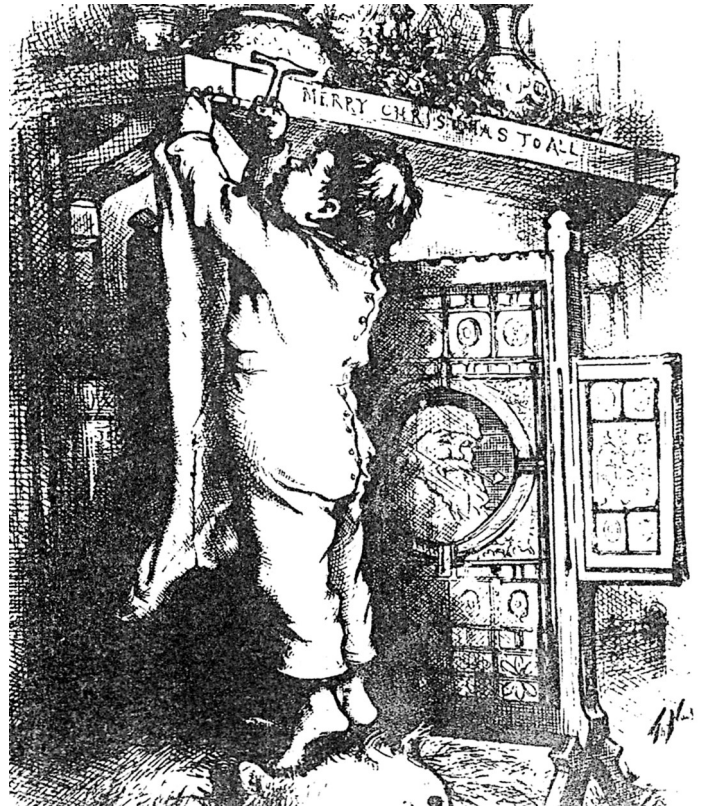
The most common story on the origin of Christmas stockings tells of St. Nicholas—a Bishop in the fourth century AD in Myra, the area of land now formally known as Turkey.

This tale tells of a penniless, widowed father who had three beautiful daughters. During these times, in order to be married, the bride's family needed to offer a *dowry*—a sum of money or area of land—to the groom's family. Seeing as the father was very poor and could not afford a dowry, let alone three of them, he feared that his daughters would never marry.

St. Nicholas had recently inherited his deceased parents' fortune and wanted to use it to benefit those less fortunate. He heard of this kind family's struggles and wanted to help anyway he could. He knew the people were very proud, regardless of their hardships, and would not be receptive of a handout. Therefore, he decided to help them secretly.

One night, the three daughters had washed their clothing and hung their stockings on the fireplace to dry. On this same night, St. Nicholas visited the house and dropped three pouches of gold coins down through the chimney. The coins landed in each of the girl's stockings, making for a joyful morning when the family awoke. Another version of this part of the story says that St. Nicholas shimmied down the chimney and specifically placed coins in each of the stockings; either way, the outcome is the same.

Once word spread through the village of a generous man leaving gifts in hung stockings, each night children started hanging their stockings by the fireplace *in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.*





1891 Holiday Advertising in Phelps

Sarah Landschoot-Riegel Phelps Town Historian



Some of today's favorite holiday foods are not very different from a century ago. As the day's widespread media, area newspapers were filled with ads for gifts and select grocery items for the holiday season. Newspaper ads were a great resource to find information on what grocery items people were shopping for. However the best document I found relating to foods for the holidays was an 1891 show program, well worn at the fold and torn in half, but still completely legible (except maybe for all the crazy fonts). This specific show ran Thursday-Saturday, December 17-19, 1891 making the program's advertisements dedicated to Christmas goodies being sold throughout Phelps and other neighboring towns.

Foods that were popular during the holiday season and advertised in newspapers were candies and baked goods, fresh fruits such as oranges, grapes, raisins, currants, French and English walnuts, cheeses, and assorted canned goods in the later part of the century. Although meat and poultry were advertised year round, turkey was particularly sought after in the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

The program, which took place at Gibson Hall, was a "great military drama" called Fritz Stein; Or, Reward. Charlie Collins, the lead actor, traveled from town to town around upstate New York and was assisted by locals in each place acting as the other parts in his plays. You'll recognize many names from the cast: William Crothers, Dr. W. A. Howe, Harry, Edward, and Elizabeth Partridge, Mrs. C. H. Burt, Miss Emma Prichard, and Miss Georgia Frisbe. The synopsis includes names of songs like "*Throw up your hands*," and different scenes like "*battle field by moonlight*." To be honest, with all the advertisements and such a small amount of program details, it's hard to find the information from the show!

Of course you have the basic ads only including the store name and item sold. Others list out all the Christmas goods you could possibly need. Christmas Goods at Garlock & Crothers include fine candies, bon-bons, fruit, nuts, figs, and dates. Fruits, candies and more available at the Phelps Bakery. "Leave your order for Christmas Turkey" at F. R. Hoag's Groceries and Crockery in Canandaigua. Kelly Bros, in Phelps retailers of fresh and salted meats, poultry and fish.

There were also ads for all the gift giving and holiday parties one was hosting. W. C. Edmonston's in Phelps carried "a large and complete line of decorated china and fancy crockery." You name it, there is an ad for it: wood and coal, clothes, shoes, carpets, hardware, wallpaper, toys, dolls, flour, lamps, sleighs, wagons, pianos, even marble and granite.

Newspapers and programs like this give us a better look at the everyday life in our town around the holidays. The businesses, the people, the past times are all pictured for us here in one program.

Fritz Stein

Christmas Goods
GARLOCK & CROTHERS
FINE CANDIES
Bon Bons, Fruit, Nuts,
Figs, Dates, Etc. at Lowest Prices.

W. H. GREENE,
PHELPS, N. Y.
DRY GOODS & CARPETS

CHARLIE COLLINS,
THE CELEBRATED
"DIALECT COMEDIAN"
WILL APPEAR ON
Thurs., Fri. Sat. Ev'g's,
DECEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 1891
AT
GIBSON HALL,
PHELPS, N. Y.

Phelps Hotel,
J. H. MEEHAN, PROPRIETOR
PHELPS, N. Y.

F. R. HOAG.
When you are in want of anything
in the line of
GROCERIES
AND
CROCKERY
you can find them at my store.
ALL GOODS FIRST-CLASS
LARGE LINE OF
Holiday Goods.
to select from. Call in and in-
spect goods and get prices.
LEAVE YOUR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS
TURKEY.

Special Holiday Bargains
Shoes and Rubber Goods
M. Y. SCHUTTLEBACH
PHELPS, N. Y.

Under the Auspices of Gen. J. B. Murray Post, G. A. R.,
IN HIS GREAT MILITARY DRAMA,
FRITZ STEIN; OR REWARD.

TICKETS. - 25 & 35 CENTS
RESERVED SEATS AT NO EXTRA CHARGE BY LINE & WARREN.
Doors Open at 7.30. PLAY AT 8.00 P. M.

Wilmes & Quies,
General Hardware



Special Thank You!

The 40 wreaths for our annual wreath sale were generously donated by
Mary Ellen Darling.

Thank you Mart VanKirk and Marilyn DeRuyter for making the trip to Hannibal to pick up the wreaths.

The beautiful bow making and decorating were done by Roberta Leu, Billee Altman, Dorothy Colvin, Dawn Colangelo, Nicole Fess, Tyler Fess, Heather Olander and Sarah Landschoot-Riegel

Thank you Rosa Grube for overseeing the project

The PCHS Annual Wreath Sale was a worthwhile fundraiser!
Thank you to all for your support!

From Our Guest Book

Partridge sisters, Annette, Mary Kay, and Valerie, along with Valerie's daughter Katlyn and Katlyn's son Oliver, stopped in for a lovely visit of the Howe House and Country Lawyer's Office. Their visit was a reunion of sorts and consisted of genealogical research, having recently discovered their connection to Phelps. The sisters are the great, great granddaughters of Samuel S. Partridge (The Country Lawyer). On display for the sisters was the wedding gown worn by their great aunt Elizabeth Partridge when she married Dr. William A. Howe on May 17, 1892 at the age of 19.



Photo above : Heather Olander, Billee Altman & Dorothy Colvin



Photo on right:: Debbie Bower picking up her wreath.



<p><u>Time and Talent</u></p> <p>Billee Altman Marilyn DeRuyter Ron Grube Anna Lightfoote Cory Maslyn Jane Pedersen <i>Holiday decorating</i></p> <p>Barb Brennessel Bonnie Dixon <i>Newsletter</i></p> <p>Barb Gillespie Scrapbooking and secretarial</p> <p>Dana Mark <i>Handyman, Transfer Station</i></p>	<p><u>Memorial Donations</u></p> <p>Patricia Canne <i>in memory of Emmons and Francis Gifford</i></p> <p>John and Bette "BJ" Hicks <i>in memory of Walter Pedersen</i></p>
	<p><u>Monetary Donations</u></p> <p>Ed VanDyne <i>in honor of Patricia Bennett</i></p> <p>Loren Gifford <i>For the Transportation Exhibit</i></p>
<p><u>Item Donation</u></p> <p>Scott Avedisian <i>1852 Ontario County Map</i></p>	<p><u>Items on Loan</u></p> <p>Woody Travis <i>US Air Force helmet and flight jacket</i></p>

PCHS 2022 Annual Appeal for Operations Funding

Thanks to the generosity of PCHS members, Phelps community residents and businesses, the donation drive is a great success!

A complete list of donors is on our website **phelpsnynhistory.com**

John & Billee Altman	Frank (Skip) Filiatreau	Robert & Myrtle Pensworth
Robert & Sandy Bankert	Janet Fremouw	Ronald and Pamela Raes
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Violet Easton	Ann Oaks	Tom Willson
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Blue Ribbon Restaurant Elderlee, Inc. Everson Dairy, Inc.
James Cheney, CPA LumberMac Tree Service Phelps Cement Products
Phelps Mercantile, Inc Phelps Veterinary Hospital
Steve's Electric Co., LLC Tri-County Excavating, Inc. WW Surge, LLC

MEMBERSHIP and DONATION FORM

If "Reminder" is highlighted please renew your membership.

If "Final Notice" is highlighted this will be your last newsletter if dues are not paid.

Dues may be paid by: check to PCHS or online at phelpsnynyhistory.com

Application: New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____ Send membership card _____ For Office use:

Individual: \$20.00 _ Family: \$30.00 _ Business: \$50.00 _____ Member #: _____

Name: _____ Date Rcvd: _____

Address: _____ Check #: _____

Winter Address: (if different from above): _____ Amt. Rcvd: _____

_____ Exp. Date: _____

Dates Winter Address in effect: _____ Computer: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Index Card: _____

Member Card: _____

DONATION: Amount _____

_____ In memory of (Optional): _____

_____ In honor of (Optional): _____

_____ Allocate funds to (Optional): _____

Welcome New Member!

Doug Coston Phelps, NY

Gift from

Mary Ann Gilman

Welcome New Members!

Justin & Erin Altman Clifton Springs, NY

Travis & Tracy Altman Phelps, NY

Merry Christmas!

John and Billee Altman

Membership Renewals

Thank you for your continued support!

June Avery

Janet Bankert

Andy & Debby Bartucca

Rebecca Bennett

Ann Bost

John & Ginny Bourke

Dr. Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian

Brian & Carolyn Burke

Chip Britting

Gary & Dorothy Colvin

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Doris Day

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Mary R Narum

Boni Overslaugh

Elaine & David Putnam

Patricia Rittler

Beverly Rodman

Eileen Ryan

Bill and Barbara Smith

Ed VanDyne

Doris Wells

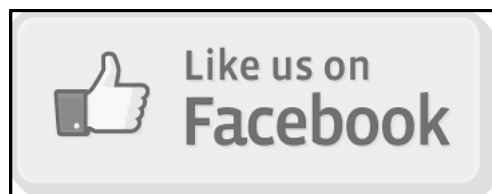
Spencer Westfall

Geoffrey Whiting

PHELPS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

66 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532

NON-PROFIT ORG
PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No 31
Newark, NY 14513



Winter Closure

**The Howe House Museum
will close
Friday December 23 at 4:00pm and
reopen
Wednesday March 15, 2023.**

**The PCHS office will also be closed but we will be
checking email and phone messages as we organize
for the upcoming year and change exhibits.**